

Town problems at Cedarvale need to be hammered out

Soccer

By ALEX TOUGH

"I must go down to the seas again, the lonely seas and skies," so wrote John Masefield, a renowned English classical poet. It's the beginning of the tale of the Ancient Mariner, an old salt who yearns to return to the sea just one more time before he departs from life.

As with the old sailor so with soccer players, and the Ancient Mariners were born. Several years ago the youth players of their day were complaining to us coaches that we were forever telling them how to play, what they should do and where they should be on the field. That was our function. Show us, they said. We did.

Some very good people passed through the ranks over the past 13 years. Dr. Stu Robbins, a fine bustling, skillful inside forward who could score goals. Colin Munro, a long-legged gentlemanly defender. Gary Spiller, a fast raiding winger. Colin Wilde, the man of the 60-yard pass and enthusiasm. The late John Bew, a rugby player turned goalie. George Baines, who was an uncompromising defender. And many others - we all received a love of the game and passed it on as well as we could. Bryan Turner and I are still there today on practice and exhibition days. Unfortunately we all become older and our legs are the first to go, in sporting terms. The lungs are next in the natural process. However, the knocks and injuries take their toll and feet, knees and back problems remain to remind us of our times on the field enjoying the hacking and good football.

This all leads me to the retirement of another good servant to the Mariners, Archie Tannock. His last game in England, although he is a Scot, was the Amateur Cup Final at Wembley Stadium. His last game for the Mariners was the Inter County league game against the Meteors, at Alcott field. A far cry from one level to another. Archie Tannock began the game in humble surroundings, like the rest of us, and finished in like manner. As he himself said, "coming here gave me another eight to 10 years I never thought possible." Three operations on his knee in the last two years has brought upon the decision to stop playing. Emmer-

son Park has a lot to do with that happening, one of the many ruts and holes sending his knee one way as his body went another.

Of course, one never knows, the call of the soccer field beckons just like the call of the sea and we may well see the return of another old salt.

The impending doom of the loss of another field in that of Meadowglen Mushroom Plant to make way for housing in a year or so brings bitter-sweet results. Bill Xanthios, the plant maintenance man, was instrumental in bringing the field into being, along with Doug Morris and other members of the Meteor Soccer Club and built the field for club and plant use. For the remaining seasons the field is given over to the town in return for grass-cutting services. A welcome addition to the meagre resources, even though for a short time.

(I cannot resist slipping in here that Doug is currently an Ancient Mariner and Bill has also graced the Mariners in his time.)

The Inter County league hosted all games in Georgetown and Acton last Wednesday and a tribute to our supply of game officials is in order. In spite of our shortage we managed to cover all six matches. It is either feast or famine, sometimes. This Wednesday we only have an early game at Meadowglen with Meteor and Villa in opposition. Mariners travel to Streetsville, Eagles to Crown and Anchor, and this completes the first division. The second division has also only one early game, Stingers host United at Alcott. Ajax travel to Laurentians.

Last Wednesday we had the first fiasco of the season, the lights at Cedarvale failing to go on. The game between Mariners and Crown had to be abandoned. At the pre-season meeting with the town it was pointed out that in previous years we had problems in having the floodlights made available early enough for operation. Again we made the point that soccer appears to be treated differently than other groups. We were left with the impression that the lights would be timed for around 6:30 p.m. onwards. Again it did not happen. No wonder soccer officials become angry. In addition to this fiasco we have another two at least. One set of goalposts was put up the wrong way round. Another set was left unbolted and collapsed upon one of our younger players leaving him with several bruises. Sheer incompetence. And, the town forgot about the May 13 opening day!

Eagles continue on their march early in the season. They defeated

Meteor by 2-1 in an exciting contest. Meteor led in the first half and were pressing the home defences continuously yet only had a penalty award to count in the goals for column. During the second half Meteor began to give away free kicks around their own penalty area and eventually Eagles equalized from a headed goal, a real beauty. Late in the game another attack from the "terrible twosome," Jamie Walraven and Terry Talsma, created havoc and Walraven had the pleasure of the winning goal to round off a fine performance.

Villa lost to Marlin and Marlin and Eagles share top spot for the present. In the second, United defeated Trexcon by 3-0, Ajax scraped through 1-0 over the "new" Milton and Georgetown Stingers gained their first point in the league with a fighting tie with Laurentians, last season's play off winners. Stingers were under pressure most of the game and the visitors left their scoring boots at home I am told.

Cull, Pasma go high

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great guy," said Pasma. "I hope I can help them."

A solid stretch run and a strong performance in the playoffs helped Gendron's cause as he was rated as a late round pick prior to Saturday's festivities.

The 6-foot, 170-pounder netted eight goals and added seven assists in 37 games for Georgetown last season and played an aggressive corner game. In Georgetown's four playoff appearances Gendron was

the team's third-leading scorer with two goals and three helpers.

Cull had a goal and five assists with the Raiders in '88-89 and Pasma scored four goals and assisted on 14.

Saturday's draft got off to a controversial start as the Sault Greyhounds made St. Mike's Buzzers star Eric Lindros the number one pick.

The 16-year-old winger may opt for U.S. college hockey.

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Rebels send 19 to OFSAA

Nineteen athletes will carry the Rebel flag into battle on Friday and Saturday as the GDHS track and field team heads into the annual all-Ontario OFSAA finals at Etobicoke's Centennial Stadium.

Head coach Bevin Clark's charges wrapped up a successful Niagara Regional competition Wednesday and GDHS will be looking to carry its winning ways into the June 2-3 provincial finals.

Bob Donker continued his dominance in the junior boys 3000-metre run, taking first at the Niagaras while Trent Cull again threw for gold in the midget shot put and added a bronze in hurdles.

Norths swat Wasps in opener

Casey Vandersluis paced a potent local attack with two tries as the North Halton Rugby Football Club buried the Niagara Wasps 34-0 in Niagara Rugby Union opening day play at Niagara Falls Saturday.

Fullback Duane Wilson, Andrew MacLeod and Larry Richardson also touched down tries as North Halton dominated the home side in both the pack and in the backfield. "MacLeod scored the try that put Niagara away early in the second half," said North Halton coach Sandy Mackenzie.

Glenn Mulder was a handy winner in the senior boys 400 hurdles and he also led the Georgetown men's 4x4 relay team to a gold medal.

Tara Burroughs tossed the javelin to a second place finish in senior girls field competition and Sheri Nairn ran to silver in the junior girls 3000.

Lisa Carter earned individual silver in the senior girls high jump and shared third place with her teammates on the GDHS 4x4 relay team.

The team of Kristy Lewis, Natalie Goldson, Anna Toone and Michelle Thompson finished second in the junior girls 4x100 event.

Seconds also tasted success in their league opener as they dumped Niagara II by a 23-12 final. Lock forward Bob Bingham led the Seconds with a two-try performance.

Mackenzie was pleased with the decisive fashion in which North Halton opened its 1989 NRU schedule and also with the fact the Georgetown-area side travelled to Niagara Falls with 28 players.

North Halton hosts its 1989 home opener Saturday at Neilson's Field with Cambridge Pirates providing the opposition for 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. kickoffs.

Meanwhile, North Halton